

III. Table of armed conflicts active in 2022

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There were active armed conflicts in at least 56 states in 2022, five more than in 2021: 11 in the Americas; 10 in Asia and Oceania; 3 in Europe; 10 in the Middle East and North Africa, one more than in 2021; and 22 in sub-Saharan Africa, four more than in 2021 (see figure 2.1 and table 2.8).¹ As in preceding years, most took place within a single country (intrastate) between government forces and one or more non-state armed groups, or between two or more such groups. Only four were fought between states: the Russia–Ukraine War and low-level border clashes between India and Pakistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Two were fought between state forces and armed groups aspiring to statehood: the conflicts between Israel and the Palestinians, and between Türkiye and the Kurds.

According to data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), there were at least three major armed conflicts (resulting in 10 000 or more estimated conflict-related deaths in the year): in Ukraine (approximately 28 400 reported fatalities), Myanmar (19 400) and Nigeria (10 700). There were also 17 high-intensity armed conflicts (resulting in 1000–9999 estimated conflict-related deaths in the year). However, these categorizations should be considered tentative, as information on fatalities can be unreliable.² As noted in table 2.8 and sections I and II, in the cases of Ethiopia and Ukraine they may be quite severe underestimates.

All three major armed conflicts and most of the high-intensity armed conflicts were internationalized, involving foreign actors, which may have led to the conflict being prolonged or exacerbated.

Estimated battle deaths decreased by 19 per cent compared to 2021, while those attributed to ‘explosions and remote violence’ increased by 28 per cent (see table 2.7). The number of explosive and remote violence events in 2022 almost doubled compared with 2021. In the ‘violence against civilians’ category both ‘events’ and ‘fatalities’ increased for the third consecutive year.

¹ A country is treated as being in an armed conflict if there were 25 or more battle-related deaths in a given year.

² Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), ‘FAQs: ACLED fatality methodology’, 27 Jan. 2020. On casualty counting see also Giger, A., ‘Casualty recording in armed conflict: Methods and normative issues’, *SIPRI Yearbook 2016*, pp. 247–61; and Delgado, C., ‘Why it is important to register violent deaths’, SIPRI Commentary, 30 Mar. 2020.

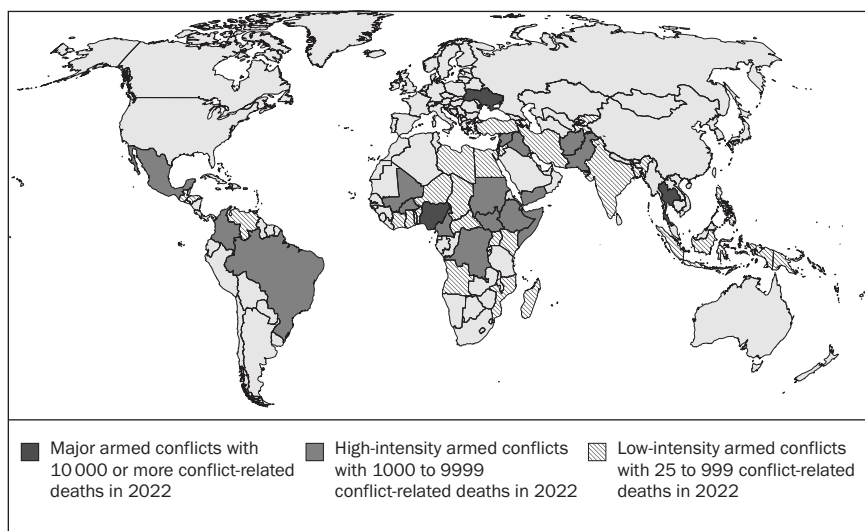


Figure 2.1. Armed conflicts by number of estimated conflict-related deaths, 2022

Table 2.7. Categories of conflict-related violence, 2020–22

Event type ^a	No. of events				Estimated fatalities ^b			
	2020	2021	2022	Change, 2021–22 (%)	2020	2021	2022	Change, 2021–22 (%)
Battles	39 277	34 017	32 582	–4	80 300	89 009	72 176	–19
Explosions/ remote violence	25 834	25 500	50 261	97	21 609	25 615	32 839	28
Protests, riots and strategic developments	170 762	191 523	179 547	–6	3 492	3 961	3 802	–4
Violence against civilians	26 504	29 719	32 144	8	31 242	35 168	38 792	10
Total	262 377	280 759	294 534	5	136 643	153 753	147 609	–4

^a For definitions of event types, see Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), ‘ACLED definitions of political violence and protest’, 11 Apr. 2019.

^b Includes all conflict-related fatalities, irrespective of whether the countries were engaged in armed conflict.

Source: ACLED, ‘Dashboard’, accessed 30 Jan. 2023.

Table 2.8. Armed conflicts active in 2022

Location ^a	Type ^b	Internationalized ^c		Key parties/dynamics	Start year ^d	Intensity (2022) ^e	Estimated conflict-related fatalities ^f	
		External actors	Peace operation				2022	Change from 2021 (%)
<i>Americas</i>								
Brazil	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	^g	High	6 434	16
Colombia	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes	State forces v NSAGs; inter-NSAG violence; inter-gang violence (UN and OAS)	1964	High	2 260	6
El Salvador	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	^h	Low	267	-34
Guatemala	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	ⁱ	Low	642	-3
Haiti	Subnational intrastate	No	Yes (UN)	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	^g	High	1 227	110
Honduras	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	^g	Low	595	0
Jamaica	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	^g	Low	376	37
Mexico	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v cartels; inter-cartel/gang violence	1994	High	7 793	-6
Puerto Rico	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	^g	Low	202	17
Trinidad and Tobago	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v criminal gangs; inter-gang violence	^g	Low	275	49
Venezuela	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces v Colombian NSAGs; inter-gang violence	^g	Low	827	-41
<i>Asia and Oceania</i>								
Afghanistan	Subnational intrastate (post-civil war)	Yes	Yes (UN)	State forces (Taliban) v anti-Taliban NSAGs	2022	High	3 956	-91
Bangladesh	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces v NSAGs; inter-NSAG violence (esp. in Rohingya refugee camps and Chittagong Hill Tracts)	2022	Low	308	-13
India	Interstate border and subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN)	Kashmir (LOC); State forces v NSAGs (esp. in north-east, Maoist)	1947	Low	905	-11
Indonesia	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	States forces v NSAGs (esp. Papua, IS, al-Qaeda)	1962	Low	247	83
Kyrgyzstan	Interstate border	Yes	No	Border clashes (Ferghana Valley)	2021	Low	70 ^j	119
Myanmar	Civil war	Yes	No	State forces v NSAGs (ethnic armed groups); State forces v NUG	1948	Major	19 357	76

Location ^a	Type ^b	Internationalized ^c		Key parties/dynamics	Start year ^d	Intensity (2022) ^e	Estimated conflict-related fatalities ^f	
		External actors	Peace operation				2022	Change from 2021 (%)
Pakistan	Interstate border and subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN)	Kashmir (LOC); State forces v NSAGs (esp Taliban and Baloch separatists)	1947	High	1 785	27
Papua New Guinea	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v NSAG (TPNPB-OPM); Inter-communal and clan militia violence	1964	Low	223	70
Philippines	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (ad hoc) ^g	State forces v NSAGs (Moro conflict and NPA); war on drugs	1991	Low	890	-23
Tajikistan	Interstate border	Yes	No	Border clashes (Ferghana Valley)	2021	Low	71 ^j	255
<i>Europe</i>								
Armenia	Interstate border	Yes	No	Nagorno-Karabakh conflict	2020	Low	217	804
Azerbaijan	Interstate border	Yes	Yes (OSCE and ad hoc)	Nagorno-Karabakh conflict	2020	Low	68	106
Ukraine	Interstate	Yes	Yes (EU and OSCE ^h)	Russian invasion Feb. 2022; Ukraine v NSAGs (Russian-backed separatists)	2014	Major	28 357 ^k	18 932
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>								
Egypt	Subnational intrastate	No	Yes (ad hoc)	State forces v NSAGs (Sinai insurgency)	2011	Low	273	3
Iraq	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN, EU and NATO)	Multiple and overlapping: state forces and NSAGs (esp. Iranian-backed militias, IS, PKK)	2013	High	4 483	58
Iran	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces v NSAGs (PJAK insurgency; Sistan and Baluchestan insurgency)	2004	Low	576	161
Israel–Palestine	Extra-state	Yes	Yes (EU)	Territorial dispute/occupation; State forces v NSAGs (esp. Hamas and PLO) ⁱ	1947	Low	221	-42
Jordan	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces v unidentified NSAGs (local tribal militia and groups from Syria)	2022	Low	38	1 800
Lebanon	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	Clashes between rival militias; sectarian tensions	2020	Low	56	-24
Libya	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN and EU)	Limited clashes between NSAGs (2020 ceasefire largely held)	2011	Low	165	43

Syria	Civil war	Yes	Yes (UN)	Multiple and overlapping: state forces v NSAGs; external state forces v NSAGs; inter-NSAG violence	2011	High	5 649	-4
Türkiye	Extra-state and Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v Kurdish NSAGs (esp. PKK)	1978	Low	274	-12
Yemen	Civil war	Yes	Yes (UN)	Multiple and overlapping: state forces (backed by Saudi Arabia-led coalition) v NSAGs (esp. the Houthis, AQAP, STC); inter-NSAG violence	2014	High	6 736	-63
<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>								
West Africa								
Benin	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v NSAGs; inter-NSAG violence	2020	Low	180	94
Burkina Faso	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State, regional and international forces v NSAGs (esp. Ansarul Islam, Katiba Serma, ISGS and JNIM); inter-communal violence	2016	High	4 242	79
Côte d'Ivoire	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v NSAGs (mainly unidentified groups or ethnic militias); inter-NSAG violence	2022	Low	45	18
Ghana	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v NSAGs (mainly unidentified groups or communal/ethnic militias); inter-NSAG violence	2022	Low	142	274
Mali	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN and EU)	State, regional and international forces; Russian PMSCs v NSAGs (esp. Ansarul Islam, Katiba Serma, ISGS and JNIM); inter-NSAG violence; military coup	2012	High	4 795	151
Niger	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (EU)	State, regional and international forces v NSAGs (esp. Boko Haram, ISWAP, Ansarul Islam, Katiba Serma, ISGS and JNIM); inter-NSAG violence	2014	Low	990	-34
Nigeria	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State, regional and international forces v NSAGs (esp. Boko Haram and ISWAP; farmer-herder violence; inter-NSAG violence)	2009	Major	10 734	1
Togo	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces v NSAG (JNIM) in northern Savanes region	2022	Low	78	1 850

Location ^a	Type ^b	Internationalized ^c		Key parties/dynamics	Start year ^d	Intensity (2022) ^e	Estimated conflict-related fatalities ^f	
		External actors	Peace operation				2022	Change from 2021 (%)
Central Africa								
Angola	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v NSAG (separatist insurgency, FLEC, in Cabinda province)	1975	Low	105	-30
Cameroon	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces v NSAGs: anglophone separatists (south-west and north-west); Boko Haram and ISWAP (far-north)	2014	High	1 003	-30
Central African Republic	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN, AU and EU)	State forces, Russian PMSCs and Rwandan forces v NSAGs (esp. CPC-affiliated)	2012	Low	839	-51
	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces v NSAGs (esp. Boko Haram and Libya-based FACT); intercommunal violence; military coup	2014	Low	696	-16
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN and EAC)	State, Rwandan and Tanzanian forces v multiple NSAGs (domestic and external in eastern provinces); intercommunal violence	2005	High	6 389	5
East Africa								
Burundi	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v NSAGs	2018	Low	258	-15
Ethiopia	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State and Eritrean forces v NSAGs: TPLF (Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions) and (OLA–Oromo conflict)	1973	High	6 663 ^m	-26
Kenya	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v NSAGs; localized ethnic-based	ⁿ	Low	551	40
Madagascar	Subnational intrastate	No	No	State forces v rural bandits	2012	Low	332	9
Mozambique	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (EU and SADC)	State and regional forces v NSAGs: Cabo Delgado insurgency; resource conflicts	2013	Low	928	-20
Somalia	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN, AU and EU)	State forces, AMISOM and US forces v NSAGs, esp. al-Shabab; clan-based violence	2003	High	6 520	100
South Sudan	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN and IGAD)	State forces v NSAGs; intercommunal violence/ community-based militias	2011	High	1 906	-12

Sudan	Subnational intrastate	Yes	Yes (UN)	State forces v NSAGs in Darfur (JEM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-MM), Kordofan and Blue Nile (SPLM-North Agar and SPLM/A-N Hilu); military coup	2003	High	2 065	25
Uganda	Subnational intrastate	Yes	No	State forces, DRC forces and MONUSCO v NSAG (cross-border ADF insurgency)	1996	Low	363	-28

ACLED = Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project; ADF = Allied Democratic Forces; AMISOM = African Union Mission to Somalia; AQAP = Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula; AU = African Union; CPC = Coalition of Patriots for Change; EAC = East African Community; EU = European Union; FACT = Front for Change and Concord in Chad (Front pour l'alternance et la concorde au Tchad); FLEC = Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda; IGAD = Intergovernmental Authority on Development; IS = Islamic State; ISGS = Islamic State in the Greater Sahara; ISWAP = Islamic State-West Africa Province; JEM = Justice and Equality Movement; JNIM = Support Group for Islam and Muslims (Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin); LOC = Line of Control; MONUSCO = United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; NPA = New People's Army; NSAG = Non-state armed group; NUG = National Unity Government; OAS = Organization of American States; OLA = Oromo Liberation Army; OSCE = Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; PIJ = Palestinian Islamic Jihad; PJAK = Kurdistan Free Life Party (Partiya Jiyana Azad a Kurdistanê); PKK = Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê); PMSC = Private military and security company; SADC = Southern African Development Community; SLM/A-AW = Sudan Liberation Movement/Army-Abdul Wahid; SLM/A-MM = Sudan Liberation Movement/Army-Minni Minnawi; SPLM = Sudan People's Liberation Movement; STC = Southern Transitional Council; TPNPB-OPM = West Papua National Liberation Army-Free Papua Movement (Tentara Pembebasan Nasional Papua Barat-Organisasi Papua Merdeka); TPLF = Tigray People's Liberation Front.

Notes: The armed conflicts in the table are listed by location, in alphabetical order, in five geographical regions: the Americas; Asia and Oceania; Europe; the Middle East and North Africa; and sub-Saharan Africa. Armed conflict involves the use of armed force between two or more states or non-state armed groups (NSAGs). There is a threshold of battle-related violence causing 25 or more deaths in a given year. The table draws on data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED).

^a Location refers to the state in which the government is being challenged by an opposition organization, an NSAG or another state, and/or the geographical location of the fighting.

^b The types of armed conflict are:

Interstate (international) armed conflict: the use of armed force by one or more states against another state or states;
Intrastate (non-international) armed conflict: usually involves sustained violence between a state and one or more NSAG fighting with explicitly political goals (e.g. to take control of the state or part of its territory) but can also include armed conflict between NSAGs, sometimes with less clear goals. Intrastate armed conflicts can also be classified as: *Subnational armed conflict*, typically confined to particular areas of a sovereign state while economic and social activities in the rest of the country proceed relatively untroubled; *Civil war*, involving most of the country and resulting in at least 1000 conflict-related deaths in a given year; and *Extra-state armed conflict*, which occurs between a state and a political entity that is not widely recognized as a state but has long-standing aspirations of statehood (e.g. the Israeli-Palestinian conflict).

^c An armed conflict is considered *internationalized* if there is significant involvement by a foreign entity that is clearly prolonging or exacerbating the conflict, such as armed intervention in support of—or the provision of significant levels of weapons or military training to—one or more of the conflict parties by a foreign government or non-state actor, including private military companies. Multilateral *peace operations* are another form of internationalization of a conflict (see chapter 3 in this volume); [#] indicates that the mission closed during the year.

^d The year when fighting caused at least 25 battle-related deaths for the first time.

^e With the caveat that data on conflict-related deaths is often imprecise and tentative, armed conflicts are categorized as *major* (10 000 or more conflict-related deaths in the current year), *high intensity* (1000–9999 conflict-related deaths) or *low intensity* (25–999 conflict-related deaths).

^f Estimated fatality figures are collated from four ACLED event types: battles; explosions/remote violence; protests, riots and strategic developments; and violence against civilians. See ACLED, 'ACLED definitions of political violence and protest', 11 Apr. 2019. Once the threshold of 25 battle-related deaths has been crossed, the fatalities from the other three event types are added to give a total number of 'estimated conflict-related fatalities'. Fatality data can be unreliable, since undercounting and manipulation of such data are common in war. The numbers are therefore tentative *estimates* that indicate a trend in a conflict's form and impact. See ACLED, 'FAQs: ACLED fatality methodology', 27 Jan. 2020.

^g The first year for which data on conflicts in this country is available in the ACLED database is 2018; it is not possible to verify the situation prior to that date. ^h Some armed political and criminal violence continued following the 1979–92 Salvadoran Civil War. The first year for which data on conflicts in El Salvador is available in the ACLED database is 2018; it is not possible to verify the situation prior to that date.

ⁱ Some armed political and criminal violence continued following the end of the 1960–66 Guatemalan Civil War. The first year for which data on conflicts in Guatemala is available in the ACLED database is 2018; it is not possible to verify the situation prior to that date.

^j Combined battle-related deaths exceeded 25.

^k This may be a low estimate of fatalities given that other public sources suggest much higher casualty rates. However, all estimates of the number of fatalities in this armed conflict, both military and civilian, are particularly difficult to verify due to likely undercounting and manipulation of the data. See e.g. Crawford, N. C., 'Reliable death tolls from the Ukraine war are hard to come by: The result of undercounts and manipulation', *The Conversation*, 4 Apr. 2022.

^l Israel describes the conflict as about 'disputed territory', while a range of authoritative bodies such as the United Nations Security Council, the International Court of Justice and the International Committee of the Red Cross define it as an occupation where international humanitarian law applies.

^m This may be a low estimate of fatalities given that other public sources suggest much higher casualty rates. See e.g. Pilling, D. and Schipani, A., 'War in Tigray may have killed 600,000 people, peace mediator says', *Financial Times*, 15 Jan. 2023.

ⁿ The first available year for data on conflicts in this country in the ACLED database is 1997; it is not possible to verify the situation prior to that date.

Sources: ACLED, 'Dashboard', accessed 10–26 Jan. 2023; various other sources; and author's assessments.